



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Arkansas*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
**August 10, 2006**

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### **TITLE COMPANY OWNER SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT**

**Little Rock** – United States Attorney Bud Cummins announced that Mary O’Hanlon Smith, 50, of Scott, Arkansas, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge James M. Moody to 63 months in prison for mail fraud and 12 months to be served concurrently for the failure to file tax returns followed by three years of supervised release. Judge Moody also ordered Smith to pay restitution of \$2,296,965.31 to Columbia National Title Insurance Company and \$28,590 to Leroy Brockington. Additionally, Smith was ordered to cooperate with the IRS on criminal restitution of the tax count.

Smith pled guilty on March 23, 2006, to one count of mail fraud and one count of failure to file tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service for calendar years 2002 and 2003. According to the Information filed in court, Smith owned and operated Global Title Company, a fiduciary and closing agent for real estate transactions. From December 2003 until October 2004, Smith admitted to receiving funds from buyer’s financial institutions and diverting them for her own use and benefit, rather than disbursing them to pay off the seller’s existing mortgages as required by the closing instructions. Smith’s diversions resulted in a loss to others of approximately \$2,324,965.31.

Smith also admitted that she failed to file federal income tax returns for calendar years 2002 and 2003 with the Internal Revenue Service. This resulted in a tax loss of \$131,585 to the United States.

This investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and IRS Criminal Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Johnson represented the United States.

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